

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090657  
ORIGIN ARA-10

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P 220047Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 090657

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SWEL, HA

SUBJECT: SENATOR BROOKE STATEMENT ON HAITI DROUGHT

REF: STATE 89726

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SENATOR BROOKE ON  
DROUGHT IN HAITI AS REPORTED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD  
APRIL 19:

QUOTE:

MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS MY UNHAPPY PURPOSE, TODAY, TO CALL  
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SENATE YET ANOTHER CONDITION  
OF DROUGHT IN HAITI. MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WILL  
REMEMBER THE SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS THAT AFFLICTED  
THE HAITIAN PEOPLE IN 1975. WHILE SOME RESPITE FROM  
THOSE CONDITIONS OCCURRED IN 1976, IT NOW APPEARS THAT  
IMPROVED CONDITIONS WERE JUST A BRIEF RESPITE FROM  
CONTINUED TRAGEDY.

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INSUFFICIENT RAINFALL DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1976  
HAS LED TO EXTENSIVE CROP FAILURES IN NORTHWEST HAITI  
AND ON THE ISLAND OF GONAVE. BOTH THESE AREAS, AS WELL  
AS OTHER PARTS OF HAITI, PROVIDE A MARGINAL STANDARD OF  
LIVING FOR THEIR INHABITANTS EVEN IN THE BEST OF TIMES.  
UNDER DROUGHT CONDITIONS THESE PEOPLE SIMPLY CANNOT

SURVIVE WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

ON MARCH 21, 1977, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO HAITI DECLARED THAT A DISASTER EXISTED AND REQUESTED THE USE OF DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS FOR THE COSTS OF AIR SHIPPING AND OPERATING TEMPORARY POWER GENERATING CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 1 MONTH. A SUBSEQUENT REQUEST WAS FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LOAN OF FOUR 750 KW GENERATORS TO HAITI AND THEIR TRANSPORTATION TO THAT COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AID HAS ALSO ARRANGED WITH THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA FOR THE DISPATCH OF A CDC EPIDEMIOLOGIST TO HAITI TO ASSESS THE DANGERS OF DISEASE UNDER THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE WORK OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO, WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, ARE MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT. AID SUMMARIZES SEVERAL OF THESE EFFORTS IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

'CARE, INC., AND CHURCH WORLD SERVICES IN FEBRUARY ASKED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE II SHIPMENTS TOTALLING 592,900 DOLS FOR USE IN FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS. THIS ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR APPROXIMATELY 2.5 MILLION MAN/DAYS OF WORK FROM 19,000 WORKERS WHO SUPPORT ABOUT 66,000 DEPENDENTS.  
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'A CABLE RECEIVED IN AID/W APRIL 4 INDICATED THAT RED CROSS FIELD REPRESENTATIVES HAD REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MORTALITY RATE IN NORTHWEST HAITI AND GONAVE AND REQUESTED 120 TONS OF DRIED MILK AS FURTHER TITLE II ASSISTANCE. A TELEGRAM SENT APRIL 5 APPROVED THE REQUEST. THIS FOOD IS TO BE SHIPPED TO HAITI BY CARE AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE RED CROSS TO APPROXIMATELY 20,500 INFANTS OR PREGNANT/LACTATING WOMEN FOR THREE MONTHS.'

IT IS ALSO EVIDENT THAT HAITI WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FOODSTUFFS TO MEET THE EMERGENCY. ON MARCH 30 THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 TONS EACH OF CORN AND RICE TO BE SOLD UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480, TITLE I PROVISIONS. UNLESS CONDITIONS IMPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IT APPEARS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT FURTHER REQUESTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

AS ONE WHO HAS A DEEP AFFINITY WITH THE HAITIAN PEOPLE,  
THEIR CONTINUED SUFFERING IS A HEARTRENDING SPECTACLE.  
IT IS IN THE BEST HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS OF THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT OUR COUNTRY STANDS READY TO  
PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE THE HAITIANS NEED TO MEET THIS  
LATEST DISASTER AND IMPROVE THEIR CAPACITY TO BECOME  
MORE SELF-SUSTAINING IN THE FUTURE.

UNQUOTE.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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